IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A media delivery network, comprising:

a media server to store content to deliver to a content consumer upon demand; and

a digital rights server to store content consumer rights defining access rights of a content consumer with respect to the content, and content owner rights defining access policies to the content as established by a content owner,

wherein the delivery of the content to the content consumer is conditional upon there being more than a preset amount of delivery time available to the content consumer and wherein the delivery of the content is monitored by the digital rights server and the access rights of the content consumer are updated with delivered time data in response to a delivered time during which the content was delivered to the content consumer, and wherein the access rights are updated in response to a termination of the content delivery.

2. (Original) The network of claim 1, wherein a delivery control event initiated by the content consumer is monitored and, in response to the event, timing of the content delivery is at least paused.

3. (Original) The network of claim 1, wherein the digital rights server includes content owner rights of a plurality of content providers each of which have associated content owner rights defining access policies to the content provided by an associated content owner.

4. (Original) The network of claim 1, wherein further delivery is denied after a cumulative delivered time reaches an authorized time duration associated with the content consumer.

5. (Original) The network of claim 4, wherein the media server communicates with the digital rights server to obtain authorization to deliver the content to the content consumer, and communicates the delivered time to the digital rights server, wherein the delivered time is a time

period for which the content was actually delivered to the content consumer in a particular delivery session.

6. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 1, wherein further delivery is denied after a certain position within the content has been reached.

7. (Original) The network of claim 4, wherein the digital rights server decrements the authorized time duration by the delivery time to define a new authorized time duration for a subsequent delivery session.

8. (Original) The network of claim 4, wherein the digital rights server stores an access period during which the authorized time duration is valid.

9. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 3, further comprising at least one network operator associated with the content provider, wherein the network operator, in response to a request for the content from the content consumer, communicates with the digital rights server to obtain session data from the digital rights server, and the media server selectively delivers the content based on the session data.

10. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 9, wherein the media server communicates the session data to the digital rights network that processes the session data and, in response thereto, selectively authorizes streaming of the content for at most an authorized time duration.

11. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 10, further comprising a digital rights agent to control access operations relating to the content consumer rights and the content owner rights, wherein the access operations include a first access operation with respect to the content consumer rights and a second access operation with respect to the content owner rights.

12. (Original) The network of claim 11, wherein the first access operation is performed by a commerce service provider with which the content consumer has a relationship.

13. (Original) The network of claim 11, wherein the second access operation is performed by the content owner.

14. (Original) The network of claim 11, wherein the access operations include any one of a rights query, a rights update, a rights registration, a rights de-registration and a rights exercise operation.

15. (Original) The network of claim 1, wherein the content consumer rights are acquired from a content distributor with which the content consumer has a relationship.

16. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 1, wherein the digital rights server:

determines an amount of authorized delivery time remaining; and

requests the media server to communicate with the digital rights server after expiry of a time period equal to the delivery time remaining.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling the delivery of content from a media server that stores content to deliver to a content consumer upon demand, the method comprising:

defining, at a digital rights server, access rights of a content consumer with respect to content, and content owner rights defining access policies to the content as established by a content owner;

determining a remaining available delivery time of the content for the content consumer;

determining whether the remaining available delivery time exceeds a preset amount of time;

when the available delivery time exceeds the preset amount of time:

timing, at the media server, delivery of the content to the content consumer;

detecting a termination of the content delivery; and

in response to the detecting of the termination of the content delivery, updating the access rights of the content consumer with delivered time data in response to a delivered time during which the content was delivered to the content consumer.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising monitoring a delivery control event initiated by the content consumer and, in response to the event, pausing timing of the content delivery.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the further delivery is denied after a cumulative delivered time reaches an authorized time duration.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising defining content owner rights of a plurality of content providers each of which have associated content owner rights defining access policies to the content provided by an associated content owner.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the media server communicates with the digital rights server to obtain authorization to deliver the content to the content consumer, and communicates the delivered time to the digital rights server, wherein the delivered time is the time period for which the content was delivered to content consumer in a particular delivery session.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising decrementing the authorized time duration by the delivery time to define a new authorized time duration for a subsequent delivery session.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising:
determining, at the digital rights server, an amount of distribution time remaining; and
requesting the media server to communicate with the digital rights server after expiry of a real time period equal to the delivery time remaining.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising:
receiving a request for session data from a network operator; and

communicating the session data from the digital rights server to a network operator, wherein delivery of the content from the media server is based on the session data.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising communicating the session data from the media server to the digital rights server that processes the session data and, in response thereto, selective authorizing delivery of the content for at most the authorized time duration.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising acquiring the content consumer rights from a content distributor with which the content consumer has a relationship.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising associating a certificate with the content consumer, and attributing the content consumer rights to the content consumer utilizing the certificate, the content consumer rights being acquired from the plurality of network operators.

28. (Previously Presented) A method of monitoring exercise of digital rights by a content consumer, which includes:

receiving a session request from a network operator server, the session request being associated with delivery of content from a media server to the content consumer;

communicating session data to the network operator server, the session data being for communication to the media server;

receiving a delivery request from the media server, the delivery request including the session data;

approving the delivery request when a remaining available delivery time for the content consumer exceeds a preset amount of time; and

upon an approval of the delivery request:

timing delivery of the content to the content consumer;

detecting a termination of the content delivery; and

in response to the detecting of the termination of the content delivery, updating access rights of the content consumer with delivered time data in response to a delivered time during which the content was delivered to the content consumer.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, further comprising denying further access after a cumulative delivered time reaches an authorized time duration associated with the content consumer.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising defining access rights of a content consumer with respect to content, and wherein the access rights of the content consumer define the authorized time duration.

31. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the digital rights server includes content owner rights of a plurality of content providers each of which having associated content owner rights defining access policies to the content provided by an associated content owner.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising receiving the delivered time received from a media server, the delivered time being the time period for which the content was delivered to content consumer in a particular delivery session.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising decrementing the authorized time duration by the delivery time to define a new authorized time duration for a subsequent delivery session.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, further comprising:
determining an amount of authorized delivered time remaining; and
requesting the media server to communicate with the digital rights server after expiry of a time period equal to the delivery time remaining.

35. (Currently Amended) A media delivery network, comprising:

media server means for storing content to distribute to a content consumer upon demand; and

digital rights server means for storing content consumer rights, defining access rights of a content consumer with respect to the content, and content owner rights defining access policies to the content as established by a content owner,

wherein the delivery of the content to the content consumer is conditional upon there being more than a preset amount of delivery time available to the content consumer and wherein the delivery of the content is monitored by the digital rights server means and the access rights of the content consumer are updated with delivered time data in response to a delivered time during which the content was delivered to the content consumer, and wherein the access rights are updated in response to a termination of the content delivery.

36. (Previously Presented) A machine-readable storage medium storing a sequence of instructions that, when executed by one or more machines, cause the one or more machines to:

define, at a digital rights server, access rights of a content consumer with respect to content, and content owner rights defining access policies to the content as established by a content owner;

determine a remaining available delivery time of the content for the content consumer;

determine whether the remaining available delivery time exceeds a preset amount of time;

when the available delivery time exceeds the preset amount of time:

time, at a media server, delivery of the content from the media server to the content consumer;

detecting a termination of the content delivery; and

in response to the detecting of the termination of the content delivery, update the access rights of the content consumer with delivered time data in response to a delivered time during which the content was delivered to the content consumer.

37. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling the delivery of content from a media server that stores content to deliver to a content consumer upon demand, the method comprising:

defining, at a digital rights server, access rights of a content consumer with respect to content, and content owner rights defining access policies to the content as established by a content owner;

determining a remaining available delivery time of the content for the content consumer;

determining whether the remaining available delivery time exceeds a preset amount of time;

when the available delivery time does not exceed the preset amount of time:

instructing the media server to communicate an additional request for authorization after the remaining available delivery time has been consumed;

timing, at the media server, delivery of the content to the content consumer;

detecting a termination of the content delivery;

in response to the detecting of the termination of the content delivery, updating the access rights of the content consumer with delivered time data in response to a delivered time during which the content was delivered to the content consumer;

detecting, based on the timing of the delivery of the content to the content consumer, an expiration of the remaining available delivery time; and

in response to detecting the expiration of the remaining available delivery time, requesting authorization from the digital rights server to continue content delivery.